

KAPPA ALPHA

WINTER 2017

# THETA

MAGAZINE



FAMILY, FINE DINING,  
AND FUN

TI MARTIN, BΣ/SMU (PAGE 18)

# SitetoSee

MUST-SEE WEB PICK OF THE QUARTER

## A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION—STAY IN TOUCH WITH THETA!

THIS YEAR, RESOLVE TO UPDATE THE FRATERNITY ON ANY LIFE CHANGES, INCLUDING A NEW ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE NUMBER, SPOUSE, AND SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS.

Log in to the Theta website to review or update your **contact information** so we can send you Theta news and happenings throughout the year, and so **your sisters can find you!**



GRAND CONVENTION 2016

[kappaalphatheta.org/iamatheta/sistersearch](http://kappaalphatheta.org/iamatheta/sistersearch)

The **Sister Search** tool on the Fraternity website enables you to search the Fraternity database for all Thetas, both living and deceased. You have the ability to search for any Theta based on name, chapter of initiation, state, and city.

Have questions or need help with Sister Search?  
Email: [webmaster@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:webmaster@kappaalphatheta.org)  
Call: Theta headquarters, 800-526-1870

**ThetaConnect** is a mobile app that makes it easy to quickly connect and socialize with other Thetas who live and work near you and who share interests, career paths, or lifestyles. To learn more, visit

[kappaalphatheta.org/alumnae/resources/thetacconnect\\_app.cfm](http://kappaalphatheta.org/alumnae/resources/thetacconnect_app.cfm)



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# THE CONFLUENCE OF VISION AND ACTION

"VISION WITHOUT ACTION IS A DAYDREAM. ACTION WITHOUT VISION IS MEANINGLESS. VISION WITH ACTION CAN CHANGE THE WORLD." VARIANTS OF THIS SENTIMENT CAN BE FOUND IN A VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING THE PROVERBS OF SEVERAL NATIONS, THE WRITINGS OF NUMEROUS PHILOSOPHERS AND STATESMEN, AND THE SPEECHES OF STEVE JOBS.

BY LIZ APPEL RINCK, Γ/BUTLER

It can also be illustrated in the lives of Kappa Alpha Theta's four founders. Without vision, Theta could hardly have survived for nearly 150 years; it would simply have been a short-lived club that not many people would remember. But because Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie had vision—"We had to make a place for women in a man's world, and the fraternity was one means to that bigger end."—their action in founding the first Greek-letter fraternity for women created lasting change in the world.

Your editor also believes that in creating Theta, Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie created lasting change for themselves. While the opportunities for women during their lifetimes were strictly curtailed, our founders pushed some boundaries in their personal and professional lives. Alice Allen Brant, for instance, became a high school principal; in a Theta history published in 1930, Alice's brother-in-law described her educational philosophy as "innovative." Her adventurous nature led her to travel, including to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 and the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

So it is entirely fitting that in preparation for our 150th anniversary in 2020, we declare 2017 to be the Year of Celebrating Scholarship and honor Alice in conjunction with that. You can find more information on page 12, and please note that February is the Month of the Scholar, a program of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), which is a nice correlation.

Other pages of this magazine introduce you, dear reader, to additional visionary, committed Thetas.

As commander of Commander's Palace, a legendary New Orleans restaurant, Ti Martin, Beta Sigma/SMU, continues her family's mission to put the fun in fine dining. And as co-founder of The New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), she also seeks to proliferate the grace, courtesy, and professionalism that is a hallmark of New Orleans hospitality. The spirit of Theta, she says, simply fits her. To read our profile of Martin, please turn to page 18.

As one of the co-founders of Her Campus, which The Huffington Post dubbed "The #1 global community for college women," Windsor Hanger Western, Zeta Xi/~, has helped launch college journalists into careers with *Glamour*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Seventeen*, *Marie Claire*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *O Magazine*, and *The Washington Post*. In our Leading Women feature (page 17), Hanger cites the value of the Theta experience in fostering entrepreneurship, encouraging a philanthropic mindset, and bolstering creativity.

As a residence coordinator at the University of Wyoming, Amy Ferree, Beta Gamma/Colorado State, oversees 500 undergraduate students in a job she describes as part social worker, part landlord, and part school principal. An alumna initiate, Ferree's Theta memories derive from her experiences as a volunteer and the support she receives from sisters who work in higher education. You can read more about her on page 14.

Because of our founders, as well as the Thetas of vision and activism who have followed them, the Fraternity itself enjoys a reputation for influencing positive change. On page 10, you can learn more about the four(!) Theta college chapters chartered in 2016, and in future issues of this magazine, you will learn about the three chapters scheduled to be chartered in 2017. Among them is George Washington University; according to the campus newspaper, the Panhellenic Association unanimously selected Theta because of our dedication to values like philanthropy, mental health, diversity and inclusion, leadership and development.

In short, to paraphrase Windsor Western, whatever a Theta—and by extension the organization—is doing, she is active, ambitious, and unafraid. ♦

ON THE COVER: Ti Martin, Beta Sigma/SMU.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW, KAPPA ALPHA THETA EXISTS TO NURTURE EACH MEMBER THROUGHOUT HER COLLEGE AND ALUMNA EXPERIENCE AND TO OFFER LIFELONG OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND MORAL GROWTH AS SHE MEETS THE HIGHER AND BROADER DEMANDS OF MATURE LIFE.

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### Notices:

- Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially recognized student group at Harvard, Santa Clara, and Georgetown Universities, these schools prohibit using "Harvard," "Santa Clara," or "Georgetown" in any published reference to our Zeta Xi, Eta Lambda, and Theta Iota Chapters.



# I AM A THETA

"I AM A THETA" IS SOMETHING WE ALL SAY WITH PRIDE, WHETHER WE JUST RECEIVED A BID DAY CARD OR A 75-YEAR MEMBER PIN. THE FONDNESS WE HAVE FOR THETA COMES FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCES—THE PEOPLE WE MEET, THE TIME WE SPEND TOGETHER, AND THE STORIES WE TELL. THESE STORIES ARE



## TWO THETA STORIES

I was married soon after graduation, and my husband and I moved to Chattanooga, Tenn. Not long after that came the birth of a beautiful blonde baby girl, followed by a sweet baby boy. I was very fortunate to work for a large interior design business that was owned and operated by women. They supported me and, as long as I took care of my clients, my career would be first and foremost a mom.

In 2007, I reconnected with Theta when Tiffany Patterson Holland, Gamma Psi/Texas Christian, moved to Chattanooga and began organizing an alumnae chapter. I was one of 10 who signed a petition to charter the Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter that year, and it was established on Founders Day 2008.

One of our annual chapter events is a mother/daughter tea, held each summer at a local tearoom. I loved bringing my daughter Rachel to this event, and began to share with her what Theta meant to me. After graduating from high school, she enrolled in Texas Christian University and became a member of Gamma Psi Chapter.

Since Rachel joined Theta, she has inspired me to become even more involved in the organization myself. Last fall, I joined the Fraternity Housing Corporation as a member of the interior design committee, and I have traveled to different chapters assessing their properties and needs. This recently included a trip down memory lane to my own chapter as an installation team member!

After my daughter was slated as CEO of Gamma Psi, I accepted the role of president of my alumnae chapter! Looking back at the collegian I was, I could never have dreamed where my Kappa Alpha Theta journey would take me. I could never have dreamed my daughter and I would have the incredible opportunity to serve our respective chapters and the Fraternity at the same time.

Amy Connell Monsees, BΔ/Arizona, is the president of the Chattanooga Area Alumnae Chapter.

## HOW THETA CHANGED MY LIFE

As a senior in high school preparing to go to college, I knew I for sure I did not want to be a part of Greek life. I had seen enough movies and TV shows to know Greek life definitely wasn't for me.

WHAT CONNECT US TO ONE ANOTHER AND STRENGTHEN OUR SISTERHOOD. WE ALL HAVE A THETA STORY TO TELL. TAKE JUST A MINUTE TO REMEMBER ONE OF YOURS, AND SHARE IT AT KAPPAALPHATHETA.ORG.

YOU CAN ALSO READ THETA STORIES SUBMITTED BY OTHER MEMBERS.

When I moved to the University of Tampa campus in the fall, all freshmen were required to go to a certain number of campus club meetings during orientation. A high school friend was going to the meeting about Greek Life, and I decided to join her.

As I watched the presentation, I realized that so much of what I had seen in movies wasn't true. I realized during this meeting that I wanted to go through sorority recruitment. Even if I didn't find a sorority that fit me and my values, I would have had the experience.

The first day of recruitment, I went to every sorority and got a feel for each. Over the next two days, I narrowed down my choices as I got to know the women of each sorority better. On preference day, I visited two sororities, one being Theta. That day I got to see ritual and spend an hour with a sister from each sorority.

When it was finally time to open our bids, I had my heart set on the other sorority I had gone to on preference day. But my amazing Pi Chi (a sorority sister who disaffiliates from her sorority to help us through the recruitment process) pulled me aside and let me know she is a Theta. She told me to just go through the new member process and if it wasn't for me, I could choose not to be a part of the sorority.

But that night at the bid night celebration, I realized how wrong I was. I had never felt so comfortable and welcomed before and immediately saw a part of myself in every single sister.

Kappa Alpha Theta changed my life from the second I made the choice to join the sisterhood. I became a part of something bigger than myself, with all of us sharing a common goal and similar values. I immediately became involved on campus and had so many doors open for me. I met people from all different sororities and fraternities and made lifelong friendships.

With its high GPA requirement and multiple service opportunities, Theta challenged me to be the best student I could be every semester, as well as a positive member of our community.

Theta is my second home and second family. I can't put into words how much Theta truly changed me. I learned to become selfless, to become a better person, and to always push myself to do better.

Even though I have graduated, Theta will never end. Thank you for loving me unconditionally and for pushing me to be the best me. For instilling lifelong values and friendships that I could've never imagined.

Alexis Klumb, HT/Tampa, graduated last May with a degree in communications. ♦

Alexis Klumb, HT/Tampa

## SHARE STORIES

Visit the I Am a Theta area of kappaalphatheta.org to browse our stories and learn more about submitting your own. (Login required for submissions.)

*I had seen enough movies and TV shows to know Greek life definitely wasn't for me.*





# KAPPA ALPHA THETA Scholarship Applications

ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation is a pillar of support, uniquely positioned as a resource our sisters can turn to for financial assistance as they face the rising costs of quality education. From scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study, to grants for leadership training and service immersion experiences, Theta Foundation invests in our Fraternity and our sisters to help Kappa Alpha Theta make a difference in the world.

When you invest in Theta Foundation, you strengthen our ability to respond to the needs of women in higher education. You affirm the legacy of love and sisterhood at the heart of Kappa Alpha Theta. And you inspire Theta's leading women to pursue our noble ideals.



**"I am so grateful** to be a part of an organization that has taught me leadership skills, connected me with empowering women around the world through sisterly bonds, and so much more. Theta truly is for a lifetime and **I am so thankful** to be able to utilize my Theta Foundation scholarship as a graduate student earning my M.Ed. in higher education and student affairs."

— Molly Basdeo, Theta Theta/North Carolina State, 2016 Theta Foundation Scholarship Recipient

**Theta Foundation wants to invest in you.**  
Visit [KappaAlphaThetaFoundation.org/](http://KappaAlphaThetaFoundation.org/) Apply-Now to learn more about our scholarship opportunities and to apply for funding.

**Want to invest in Theta's leading women?** Visit [GiveToTheta.org](http://GiveToTheta.org) to donate now.



**Give by phone:**  
1.800.KAO.1870

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*Welcome Home*

## FRATERNITY HOUSING CORPORATION TAKES CHARGE OF CHAPTERS' TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS

The FHC team works hard every day to provide Theta facilities with comfortable spaces that are not only beautiful but also functional. In this increasingly digital world, college students rely on laptops, phones, tablets, and other devices to keep their academic and personal lives on track. To help them do so, the Fraternity Housing Corporation commissioned charging stations for all FHC-managed facilities and suites.



Complete with Theta branding, the charging stations embody FHC's stylish design aesthetic while providing functional value to members. With two ledges and multiple cord inputs, the charging station accommodates up to eight devices. FHC plans to continue innovating and improving Theta facilities across the continent!





Some unexpected and intriguing items from Theta's collection. Left: a carved wooden box, circa 1924; below: a silver pin featuring our coat of arms, circa 1915; bottom: shaving mug and brush from Kappa Alpha Theta Dad's Day, circa 1950.

# #ASKANARCHIVIST DAY

OCTOBER IS AMERICAN ARCHIVES MONTH AND IN CELEBRATION OF THAT MONTH, THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS SPONSORS A YEARLY #ASKANARCHIVIST DAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA. THETA HAS BEEN PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND I'M EXCITED TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE INTERESTING QUESTIONS WE RECEIVED VIA FACEBOOK, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM, AND SNAPCHAT LAST OCTOBER.

BY NORALEEN DUVALL YOUNG, AX/PURDUE

#### **DO WE HAVE PIECES FROM EVERY THETA CHAPTER?**

We have materials relating to every chapter, but the quantity varies greatly between chapters. The older the chapter, the more likely we are to have files, photographs, or artifacts. For newer chapters, we may not have much ... yet! We welcome additions to the collections! If you have questions about donating a piece, please contact me, [archives@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:archives@kappaalphatheta.org).

#### **TELL US ABOUT AN ITEM DONATION YOU HAD TO SAY, "THANKS, BUT NO THANKS" TO ACCEPTING?**

I have not had to say "No" too often, but when I do, I always try to suggest a more appropriate home for the items. The materials may be more appropriate at a university, local historical society, or other archival organization. I want to make sure it is preserved somewhere! I also want to avoid declining an item if it might be accompanied by corollary pieces that could become very important additions to our collection. That's why I always encourage people to ask me about specific artifacts so I can let them know if it fits within our collection policy or if we already possess a similar item.

#### **WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE OR IRREPLACEABLE HISTORICAL ARTIFACT? ANYTHING CREEPY?**

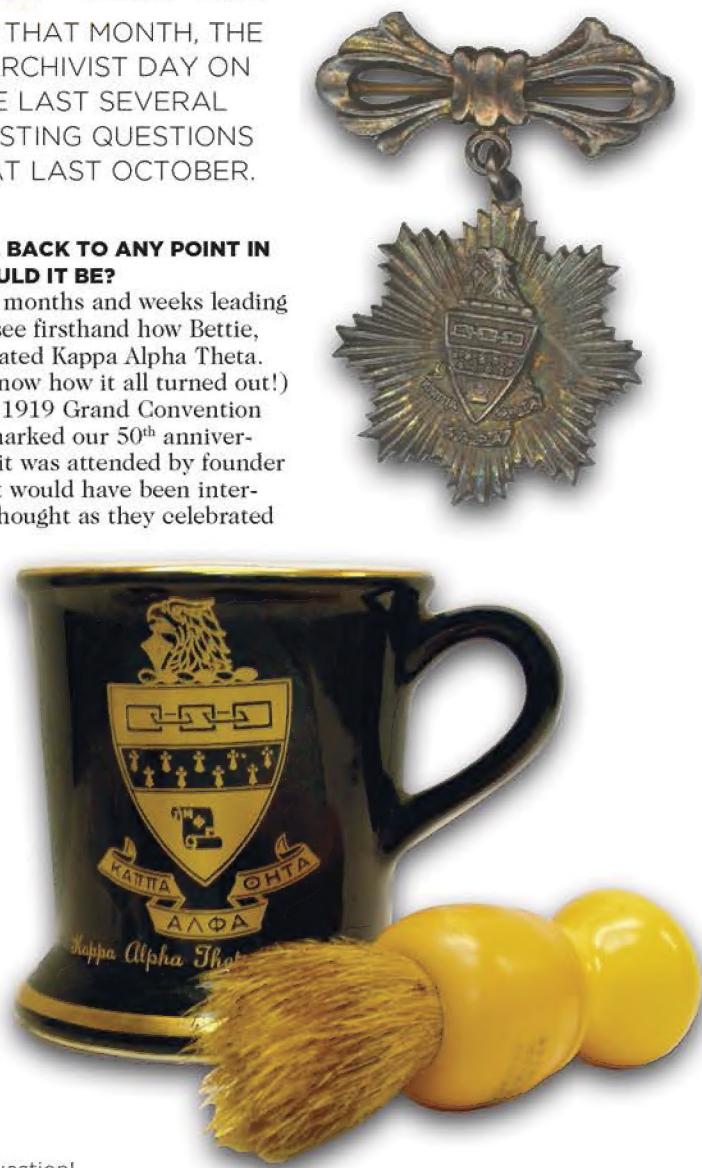
Much of what we have in the archive is irreplaceable, but essays written by Bettie Locke and Hannah Fitch as students are unique pieces. The recent acquisition of the cake basket presented to Bettie Locke in 1870 by the Phi Gamma Deltas at Indiana Asbury is also very special. As for creepy, some visitors think the watch fob made of human hair is creepy, but it's reflective of a popular activity of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

#### **IF YOU COULD TIME TRAVEL BACK TO ANY POINT IN THETA HISTORY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

I would like to go back to the months and weeks leading up to January 27, 1870, and see firsthand how Bettie, Alice, Bettie, and Hannah created Kappa Alpha Theta. (And if I could, I'd let them know how it all turned out!) My next stop would be at the 1919 Grand Convention in St. Louis. The Fraternity marked our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at that Convention, and it was attended by founder Hannah Fitch Shaw. I think it would have been interesting to see what members thought as they celebrated Theta's semicentennial, especially as we prepare for our sesquicentennial in 2020.

#### **WHAT ARE SOME EASY WAYS FOR COLLEGIAINS AND/OR ALUMNAE TO PRESERVE THEIR OWN CHAPTER'S HISTORY AND/OR THETA'S HISTORY?**

Chapters should save copies of any publications or reports. Take and save high-quality images and try to identify the people within the image soon after it was taken. Visit [heritage.kappaalphatheta.org](http://heritage.kappaalphatheta.org) for more tips.



Remember, you don't have to wait to for #AskAnArchivist to pose a question! Contact us via social media (@kappaalphatheta) or email ([archives@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:archives@kappaalphatheta.org)).

## 2016 NPC ANNUAL MEETING

# ADVANCING SORORITY... TOGETHER

BY JULES SCHENK, KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA, NPC DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

The 2016 National Panhellenic Conference annual meeting in October offered delegation members, inter/national presidents, and executive directors of NPC member organizations an opportunity to reflect on and discuss how the 26 member organizations are advancing sorority together.

To help build and strengthen relationships among these leaders, delegates, inter/national presidents, and executive directors of each member organization visited the Missouri History Museum—home of the first Thomas Jefferson memorial—to tour the Route 66 exhibit and enjoy dinner on Thursday evening. Ginny Carroll, Alpha Xi Delta, principal of InGiNuity consultancy, guided a lively conversation on NPC memories and what NPC does best.

On Friday, Carroll facilitated conversations about specific responsibilities as board members, organization presidents, and executive directors. Lunch offered a learning opportunity on the Circle of Sisterhood Foundation and further networking. In the afternoon, all alternate delegates and NPC Foundation trustees and guests, including nondelegation area advisors, joined the annual meeting.

That evening, attendees gathered to discuss proposed legislation, hear an update from the government relations committee and learn how the organizations represented at Harvard University are responding to Harvard's ban on campus participation for members of single-sex organizations.

The official opening of the business meeting followed dinner. Delegations introduced members and guests, legislation was proposed and adopted, and NPC Chairman Donna C. King, Sigma Kappa, gave her state of NPC presentation. King closed the presentation by saying, "Thank you to each of you for working together to ensure the achievements of 2015-16 send a strong message to our publics that the sorority experience is alive, well, and growing." After the business meeting, first-time attendees adjourned to a reception hosted by King, while others gathered at a reception to celebrate the retirement of long-time delegation member Patty Disque, Chi Omega.

Early morning committee meetings kicked off Saturday's activities, followed by inter/national presidents and executive directors visiting the 37 NPC part-

ners in the exhibit hall. College Panhellenic and alumnae Panhellenic area advisors also met by region and then attended breakout sessions to delve into specific areas of influence, such as finance and recruitment.

The afternoon featured campus meetings in which member organizations met to discuss specific concerns identified on certain campuses. The closing business meeting included additional proposed legislation and special presentations from member organizations. Saturday night's dinner celebrated the accomplishments of the NPC Foundation. Before and throughout the meeting, participants purchased sunflower stickers for \$5 each. These stickers were given to attendees—or emailed to them if they weren't in attendance—to say thank you for advancing the sorority experience. Janet Brown, Alpha Omicron Pi, NPC Foundation board of trustees president, announced that this year's sales raised more than \$8,000 for the Spirit Fund. She also noted that 17 member organizations met the 100 percent delegation donation challenge.

The annual meeting concluded with a town hall gathering Saturday night. Jon Coffin, VOX Global, moderated a panel discussion on the evolution of gender identity. The conversation presented an educational opportunity to listen and learn about a topic that intersects with the unique position NPC organizations have as all-women's groups. Panelists were Tim Burke, president of Manley Burke and its Fraternal Law Partners division; Jessica Pettitt, Delta Gamma, diversity consultant for Good Enough Now; Dr. Lori Reesor, vice-provost for student affairs and dean of students at Indiana University-Bloomington; and Beth Stathos, general counsel for and member of Chi Omega.

Sunday saw a special educational summit for communications and marketing specialists. These member-organization representatives learned about internal communications, brand ambassadorship, how to talk to the media, and how to leverage social media. "I like that phrase 'a rising tide lifts all boats'... and I hope we can keep that in mind as we tell the stories of our own member organizations and promote the broader sorority experience at the same time," said Donna Chereck, Alpha Chi Omega, NPC Advocacy chairman. ♦

Visit [npscwomen.org](http://npscwomen.org) for more information about NPC and its advocacy and support of the sorority experience.



GREEK YEARBOOK

Back: Michelle Mouton Geiger,  $\Delta K/LSU$ , 1<sup>st</sup> alternate NPC delegate; Christa Dell Sobon,  $\Delta Z/Emory$ , scholarship committee chairman; Kara Prestage Van Duzee,  $ZO/Wake Forest$ , recruitment and Panhellenic district director; Cate Lock Bibb,  $\Gamma \Phi/Texas Tech$ , 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate NPC delegate; Kelley Galbreath Hurst,  $BI/Colorado$ , 3<sup>rd</sup> alternate NPC delegate; Liz Becker,  $ZN/UC Davis$ , NPC staff. Front: Betsy Sierk Corridan,  $BO/Iowa$ , executive director; Amy Hayner Kates,  $A\Phi/Tulane$ , NPC delegate; Laura Ware Doerre,  $\Delta E/North Carolina$ , Fraternity president; Mary Jane Parker Beach,  $BN/Florida State, FHC$  president, at the NPC meeting.



National Panhellenic Conference  
*the voice for sorority advancement*

# KITES FLYING

SAN DIEGO STATE STETSON COLORADO SCHOOL OF

OUR THETA FAMILY IS GROWING! IN 2016, THE FRATERNITY WELCOMED NEW CHAPTERS AT COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES AND GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS REESTABLISHED THE GAMMA SIGMA CHAPTER AT SAN DIEGO STATE AND THE EPSILON THETA CHAPTER AT STETSON UNIVERSITY.

## ΓΣ/SAN DIEGO STATE

"It's been such a privilege to undergo preparation for our installation weekend with so much support and love from Thetas all over the country," said Alison Norwood, Gamma Sigma chief executive officer. "I can't wait for Gamma Sigma to continue the legacy of creating leading women!"

On December 10, 184 women, including five legacies, were initiated into Gamma Sigma. Alumnae traveled from Washington, Oregon, San Francisco, and Orange County to celebrate Theta sisterhood with their legacies.

The Gamma Sigma Chapter was originally established in 1951. Several buildings on the main campus, which lies on the eastern end of San Diego, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The reestablished chapter joins Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Phi, Delta Gamma, Delta Zeta, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Delta, and Pi Beta Phi in the campus Panhellenic Association.



## SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY



## ΕΘ/STETSON

Originally chartered in 1981, the Epsilon Theta Chapter was reestablished at Stetson on November 19; 76 women were initiated, including two legacies and two alumnae.

At the celebration following initiation and chapter installation, Ryan Manning, Stetson's assistant director of fraternity and sorority involvement, offered words of wisdom and good wishes to the new chapter. "I challenge you to take these next few years as an opportunity to establish yourself as an organization and to start asking questions and making waves," he said. "Promise me that you will always strive for greatness within yourselves, not what others expect you to be. I am so excited for what you all have become, and I am so excited for the future of Kappa Alpha Theta at Stetson."

Epsilon Theta joins Delta Delta Delta, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Xi Delta, Pi Beta Phi, Zeta Tau Alpha on the Stetson campus, which is located in DeLand, Florida, roughly halfway between Orlando and Daytona Beach.



## STETSON UNIVERSITY

# HIGH MINES GEORGIA TECH

## ΘM/COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

Just as Theta was a pioneer in the women's fraternity movement, Colorado School of Mines (known familiarly as Mines) was a pioneer in developing a curriculum and research program geared toward responsible stewardship of the earth and its resources.

On November 5, 54 women, including four legacies, were initiated by Theta Mu. Two of the charter members, Dana and Abbie Steiner, are now Theta sisters as well as biological sisters; their mother, Nancy Hudson Steiner, is a member of Delta Kappa/LSU.

Theta joins National Panhellenic Conference groups Alpha Phi, Sigma Kappa, and Pi Beta Phi on the Mines campus, which is located in Golden, Colorado, outside Denver.



**MINES**



Thank you to Theta officers and staff whose hard work helped make these events successful.

Contributors: Cassie Dobbs, Alyssa Franco, Alex Johnston, and Meghan Finke, Theta educational leadership consultants providing support to these new chapters.

## ΘN/GEORGIA TECH

Students at Georgia Tech represent 114 countries; echoing that diversity, the Thetas of the Theta Nu Chapter hail from Canada, Russia, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and Jamaica, as well as the US.

On November 12, the chapter was installed, and 65 new members were initiated. "I joined Theta because I loved the idea of getting to help shape an organization that helps to strengthen women through college and beyond. Every woman in Theta is unique in her own, amazing way and I can't wait to see how we can use our diversity to influence Georgia Tech and the world," said Kelby Mathis, chief recruiting officer.

Georgia Tech's campus is located in Atlanta. Theta joins Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Delta Pi, Phi Mu, Alpha Phi, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Xi Delta, Zeta Phi Beta and two associate chapters, Alpha Delta Chi and Alpha Omega Epsilon, in the Collegiate Panhellenic Council. ♦



**Georgia  
Tech**



# CELEBRATING 150

In 2020, we will commemorate 150 years of Kappa Alpha Theta! A sesquicentennial is truly cause for celebration—how many other organizations have not only survived but thrived for a century and a half?



We are celebrating each of them in the years leading to 2020.

This year, we celebrate the Year of Scholarship by recognizing founder **Alice**

There are many reasons for the enduring power of Theta sisterhood. Four reasons are our founders: **Bettie Locke Hamilton**, **Alice Allen Brant**, **Hannah Fitch Shaw**, and **Bettie Tipton Lindsey**.

**Alice Brant** and Theta's commitment to academic excellence. Through social media and the blogs on Theta's website, we'll share stories of individual Thetas, as well as the ways in which Theta Foundation, the Fraternity Housing Corporation, and our chapters support scholarship.

Join us as we celebrate Alice Allen Brant and all Thetas who are dedicated to learning, growing, and being a part of something larger than themselves. ♦



Alice Allen Brant,  
A/DePauw

[facebook.com/KappaAlphaTheta](https://facebook.com/KappaAlphaTheta) • [Snapchat \(kappaalphatheta\)](https://www.snapchat.com/add/kappaalphatheta) • [kappaalphatheta.org](http://kappaalphatheta.org)

Want more?  
[heritage.kappaalphatheta.org/](http://heritage.kappaalphatheta.org/)



# Socially Speaking:

## The Top 10\* Theta Facebook Posts of 2016

By Lauren McCarty Palmer, B/Indiana, KAΘ Digital Media Manager

- 10** Chierika "Coco" Ukogu of Phi deuteron/  
**Stanford** competed as a single sculls rower at  
the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. (Aug. 12)
- 9** Delta Omicron/**Alabama** chose to donate  
the chapter's entire homecoming budget to  
suicide prevention in honor of a sister lost to  
suicide. (Sept. 30)
- 8** Following **Harvard's** decision to penalize  
members of single-gender organizations,  
attendees at Grand Convention 2016  
demonstrated solidarity with the women of  
**Zeta Xi Chapter** through a standing ovation.  
(June 24)
- 7** Fraternity and sorority historian Fran  
Becque's blog post, "Hypocrisy: Thy Name is  
Harvard," received resounding support from  
Theta's Facebook audience. (May 13)
- 6** Photos of the renovated **Beta Sigma**  
**Chapter** house at SMU had Thetas of all ages  
swooning! (Dec. 1)
- 5** I'm blushing as I report that the post  
announcing my own initiation at Grand  
Convention 2016 made the list! (June 25)
- 4** A simple photo of hundreds of chairs waiting  
for their respective delegates deftly captured  
the meaning of Grand Convention. (June 23)
- 3** Thetas offered love and support upon the  
passing of **Carole Cones Bradfield, Alpha/**  
**DePauw**, the last living direct descendant of  
**Bettie Locke Hamilton**. (Aug. 5)
- 2** Fraternity President **Laura Doerre's** public  
denouncement of the Harvard decision  
had Thetas everywhere sharing words of  
encouragement for their Harvard sisters.  
(May 12)

\*as measured by how many people the post reached



### Top Facebook Post

- 1** By a landslide, the most popular Facebook  
post of 2016 was a *New York Times* article  
featuring members of **Epsilon Upsilon/**  
**Columbia**. "When a Feminist Pledges a  
Sorority," by Jessica Bennett, shot to the  
heart of the national conversation about  
the enduring relevance of the modern  
sorority experience. (April 9) ♦

# AN UNTRADITIONAL THETA BOND

BY LAUREN MCCARTY PALMER, B/INDIANA

**A**s an alumna initiate and Life Loyal member, Amy Ferree's Theta story is untraditional. She didn't go through recruitment or experience college milestones alongside her sisters, but the Theta bond endures as a central pillar of her life.

Amy first learned about Theta while working toward her master's degree in higher education. She realized several of the women she most admired in her personal and professional circle were Thetas. "They embodied the values, talents, and aspirations that I sought most for myself," she said. "I also learned (contrary to what I had previously thought) that the fraternity/sorority experience does not end after college and that these women still maintained strong ties to their organization."

Through her Theta relationships, Amy learned about Theta's alumna initiate program and was invited to become a member. Though she was attending graduate school in Ohio, Amy was thrilled to learn Theta's chapter at her alma mater, **Colorado State University**, was being reestablished. Amy traveled home to be initiated during **Beta Gamma's** installation weekend, with members of Grand Council conducting the service.

A few years older than the standard new member, Amy feels her age encouraged a deeper appreciation for the true meaning of Theta. "I think a lot of college women are drawn to sorority, at least in part, because of the experiences of chapter life: social and sisterhood events, possibly living in a chapter facility, philanthropy events, and—of course—the everyday support that sisters offer," she said. "Because I did not get to experience that side of it, I was drawn to Theta because of its timeless values, extensive network of sisterhood and support, and opportunities for growth, and I immediately saw the profound meaning of a sisterhood dating back to 1870."

In her current role as a residence coordinator at the University of Wyoming, Amy oversees 500 undergraduate students and often looks for advice and support from Theta friends who also work in higher education. "They are my mentors and guides in what can often be an emotionally challenging line of work. One of my closest friends and Theta sisters works in a similar job at a different institution, and she is one of the first people I reach out to when I'm feeling overwhelmed," Amy said. "I like to say that my job is a combination of a social worker, landlord, and school principal—on any given day, I might be having a disciplinary hearing with a student, counseling a student through homesickness, managing a facility flood (sometimes at midnight!), or working to assist a student in a potentially life-threatening crisis," she said.

While the work is demanding, Amy feels her Theta experience has prepared her for it. "Theta women do not back down from a challenge! We have others' backs, and we can be tough. Theta values are such a source of encouragement to me on my worst days in the job, and a source of inspiration on the best."

Through her volunteer work as a permanent alumnae secretary (PAS) and scholarship committee volunteer, Amy has also built relationships with Thetas across the country. "The bulk of my Theta memories have come from my experiences as a volunteer, and they are memories that I will always treasure! I live in a rural area where the closest college and alumnae chapters are over an hour away, so my volunteer roles (which are primarily online and over the phone) are truly my lifeline to staying connected to the Fraternity as a whole. I know we volunteers say it a lot, but it really is true—with volunteering, you get more back than you give."



Amy Ferree, B/I/Colorado State

*"I was drawn to Theta because of its timeless values."*

*Life Loyal*



## BECOME A LIFE LOYAL THETA!

These women enrolled between August 1 and October 31, 2016.

### A/DEPAUW

Karen Lynn Lang  
Ann Baur Whitlatch

### B/INDIANA

Bryn Millholland Mooth  
Lauren McCarty Palmer

### Γ/BUTLER

Brandie Henry Oliver

### Δ/ILLINOIS

Victoria Hughes Flint  
Amy M. Hamilton

### I/CORNELL

Chandra Yueh

### K/KANSAS

Meg Bruggen Zahner

### N/HANOVER

Jessica Pinkerton Sowder

### Π/ALBION

Alexandra J. Sturridge

### Υ/MINNESOTA

Ursula Odson

### ΑΤ/OHIO STATE

Nancy Robnett Durban

### AH/VANDERBILT

Lillian Lehr Bunn

### ΑΘ/TEXAS

Mary Schneider Pitts

### AI/WASHINGTON-ST. LOUIS

Karyl Kim

### AA/WASHINGTON

Julie Silke Devine  
Gail Akiyama Hanley

### AE/OREGON

Stephanie Lou Haisley

### ΑΠ/NORTH DAKOTA

Heidi Dearstyne

### AP/SOUTH DAKOTA

Jane Burns Shanard

### ΑΣ/WASHINGTON STATE

Barbara Henry Baugh

### ΑΧ/PURDUE

Barbara Daniel Schmaus

### ΒΔ/ARIZONA

Ruth Grumblng Kester

### BΖ/OKLAHOMA STATE

Madison P. Cotherman

### BΗ/PENNSYLVANIA

Martha Gay Stewart

### ΒΙ/COLORADO

Carrie Cramer Bond  
Alice Osborn Brooks

### BΚ/DRAKE

Nicole B. Theophilus

### BΜ/NEVADA

Erica M. Ewing

### ΒΝ/FLORIDA STATE

Lynn Owens Nelson

### ΒΕ/UCLA

Linda Hoffman Rasmussen

### ΒΣ/SMU

Susan Germany

### ΒΥ/BRITISH COLUMBIA

Barbara Asails Klier  
Rebecca Molnar

### ΓΙ/KENTUCKY

Christine Snyder Rigby-Hall

### ΓΜ/MARYLAND

Beth Englander Maida

### ΓΠ/IOWA STATE

Anne Steenson  
Suzanne Latham Thomsen

### ΓΣ/SAN DIEGO STATE

Barbara Scobey Ealy  
Jody Van De Kamp O'Connor

### ΓΥ/MIAMI

Sharon Elizabeth Young

### ΓΦ/TEXAS TECH

Lynn Foxhall Badgwell

### ΓΩ/AUBURN

Beth Gregory St. Jean  
Carla Wilson

### ΔΟ/ALABAMA

Amy Thompson Stehr

### ΔΦ/CLEMSON

Kaitlin Dawn Carter  
Elizabeth Borden Meisinger

### ΕΕ/BAYLOR

Kathryn Brown Wilson

### ΕΖ/MISSISSIPPI

Caroline Rowena Burcham  
Avery N. Drennen

### ΕΘ/STETSON

Mary Elizabeth Dement

### ΕΜ/PRINCETON

Kelly Bailer Krauss

### ΕΨ/RICHMOND

Sarah Huber Welk

### ΖΘ/CAL POLY

Savannah Smith

### ZΜ/MIT

Nancy Lu

### ΖΨ/SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Amy Luster McIver

### ΗΟ/CENTRAL FLORIDA

Brittany Christine Walsh

### ΗΠ/CASE WESTERN

Allison Lansell

### ΗΦ/BELMONT

Christine Lynn Locke ◊

## WHAT IS KAPPA ALPHA THETA LIFE LOYAL?

Kappa Alpha Theta Life Loyal is a program developed to provide enhanced services to members and to recognize those who support the Fraternity financially.

### LIFE LOYAL MEMBERS RECEIVE

A lifetime subscription to *The Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*

Fraternity dues payment for life\*

A handcrafted lapel pin

A limited-edition gift from our Life Loyal collection and more!

## IT'S EASY TO JOIN LIFE LOYAL OR ENROLL A FRIEND OR RELATIVE!

### ONLINE

Simply go to [www.thetalifeloyal.org](http://www.thetalifeloyal.org) to join and pay through our secure website.

### PHONE

Call Fraternity headquarters, **800-526-1870**, to provide your contact and payment information over the phone.

### MAIL

Print the enrollment form available at [www.thetalifeloyal.org](http://www.thetalifeloyal.org) and mail the completed form with your check or credit card information to:

Kappa Alpha Theta  
attn: Kristi Tucker  
8740 Founders Road  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

\*not including annual chapter dues



# Claire Fry

## A THETA OF NOTE

**CLAIRE FRY IS A SOPHOMORE AT COLUMBIA, A MEMBER OF THE EPSILON UPSILON CHAPTER, AND ORIGINALLY FROM SAN FRANCISCO. LAST SUMMER, SHE INTERNED WITH NBC OLYMPICS IN RIO DE JANEIRO, WORKING IN THE RESEARCH ROOM AND AS THE INFORMAL SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERT FOR NBCSN. IN AUGUST, SHE TOOK OVER THETA'S SNAPCHAT ACCOUNT FROM RIO TO GIVE THETAS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY A SNEAK PEEK AT WHAT HER JOB ENTAILED.**

**HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF THE OLYMPICS?**

Yes! But as a non-athlete, I don't necessarily enjoy the Olympics for the sake of watching the pinnacle of any given sport. As a performing artist and as someone interested in international relations, I love the Olympics for the sheer spectacle of it. I think that the Olympics are a beautiful way for the international community, not only sports fans, to come together and celebrate beauty, respect for others, and integrity.

On a more personal level, interning at the Olympics is something of a family tradition. My mother worked at the 1984 Olympiad in Los Angeles, my aunt worked at the 1992 Olympiad in Barcelona, and my cousin worked at the 2000 Olympiad in Sydney! I was thrilled to continue the tradition and take our family's Olympic history to its fourth continent.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OLYMPIC SPORT, AND DO YOU PLAY IT?**

I've gotten this question a lot, and when I answer basketball, most people are disappointed because they expect me to say something more unique or at least less traditionally US-dominated. One of my favorite memories from my time in Rio this summer was at the US v. Serbia game. I accidentally sat in the Serbian section but was thrilled to see how devoted the spectators were to their team. This may sound silly, but I had momentarily forgotten that just because their team wasn't expected to win, the fans weren't going to support their team any less wholeheartedly. Moments like this will always define the Olympics for me as a space of respectful, non-malicious competition.

**TELL US SOMETHING WE PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OLYMPICS.**

An interesting fact I learned in the Research Room is the specific way that the Olympics are titled. The games that take place in the summer are officially "The Games of the Olympiad," whereas the games in the winter are "The Winter Olympic Games." Apparently, it is a faux pas to say "The Summer Olympic Games."

**WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE DOING FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?**

(If you are my parents, stop reading here and go on to the next question.) Despite my family's insistence that I would make a great lawyer, my true passion lies in performing arts. I have always been a singer, and in college, I have really begun to explore my love for theatre as well. In my dream world, in five years I will still be living in New York, working in the theatre industry.

**"LOOKING AT ME, NO ONE WOULD GUESS..."**

... that even though I have done several seemingly fearless things such as scuba diving, skydiving, singing in front of thousands of people, and moving 3,000 miles away from my family, I have a terrible phobia of flying insects.

**WHAT ONE THING REALLY MAKES YOUR DAY?**

A hug from a friend! Because Columbia is in an urban, fast-paced environment and there is such a dearth of public space, the school can be conducive to feelings of isolation and loneliness. Nothing makes me happier than when a friend stops for a moment to check in with me and make me feel loved! Second place goes to seeing a cute dog on the street.

**WHAT ARE YOUR FONDEST THETA MEMORIES?**

My fondest Theta memory outside my chapter occurred over the course of last summer and solidified why joining Theta was a good choice for me. Between May and August, I met Thetas in Paris; Chapel Hill, North Carolina; San Francisco; Bozeman, Montana; and Rio de Janeiro. These women were from college chapters all over the United States and were aged 25 to 75. Nothing can adequately explain the immediate feeling of connection that I experienced when I met these women, and it was incredible to bridge generations in such a profound way. Theta's traditions and values are a unifying force for thousands of women across the world, and it was thrilling to see that in action. ♦



Claire Fry, EΨ/Columbia

*"Theta's traditions and values are a unifying force for thousands of women across the world."*



AS ONE OF THE CREATORS OF THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL MEDIA NETWORK HER CAMPUS, **WINDSOR HANGER WESTERN, ZE/-**, HAS A LOT ON HER PLATE. AT AGE 28, SHE'S CO-FOUNDER, PRESIDENT, AND PUBLISHER OF A COMPANY LAUDED AS THE NUMBER ONE NEW-MEDIA BRAND FOR COLLEGE WOMEN. SHE'S A NEW MOM TO DAUGHTER ELEANOR. AND SHE'S DEFINITELY A...

# LEADING WOMAN

## WINDSOR HANGER WESTERN, ZETA XI CHAPTER

BY LAUREN MCCARTY PALMER, B/INDIANA

In 2008, Western was running Harvard's on-campus print lifestyle and fashion magazine with classmates Stephanie Kaplan Lewis and Annie Wang. Then the team decided to move the publication online and experienced a revelation. "We realized there was a lack of content aimed specifically at college women, both in print and online, and we decided to fill this void with a national website for college women, by college women," Western explained.

Her Campus was born, with site content geared to "A college women who is on top of her game—strategically career-minded, distinctly fashionable, socially connected, academically driven, and smartly health-conscious, who endeavors to get the most out of her college experience." Her Campus is now a major source of news and entertainment for college women on campuses all over the country.

In addition to providing high-quality content written by professional journalists, Her Campus offers opportunities for college women to showcase their professional abilities. "It's a medium for aspiring journalists, entrepreneurs, marketers, and advertisers to prove themselves professionally without leaving their campus."

Western particularly savors hearing from women about how Her Campus has changed their lives. "I've received countless handwritten notes, cards, letters, and phone calls," she said. "Hearing from these women that Her

Campus helped them find their place in college, gave them confidence, helped them feel heard, helped them land their dream internship, or it was the main thing they talked about in their job interviews is more rewarding and fulfilling than I can possibly describe."

Western recently became a mother, and having a child has changed her management perspective. "Becoming a mother has made me hyper-aware of the absolute necessity of a compassionate and flexible workplace to help women (and men) balance their demands at home with their demands in the office," she said. "I think going through the experience of pregnancy and taking care of my daughter has really made me a better and more understanding boss and business owner."

And Western has no doubts about the enduring value of the sorority experience, and the particular value of Kappa Alpha Theta. "To be a leading woman is to be someone who is working actively to change the world," she said. "She may be creating a brand-new business or revitalizing an existing one. She may be setting an example of compassion and generosity in her local community. She may be creating opportunities for others to give back. She may be making the world more beautiful with artwork or music. Or she may be working tirelessly to preserve the earth for future generations. Whatever she is doing, a leading woman is someone who is active, ambitious, and unafraid." ♦

Windsor Hanger Western, ZE/-

# CRESCE NT CITY DYNASTY

RAISED IN A FAMILY RENOWNED FOR CELEBRATING THE FUN IN FINE DINING,  
**TI ADELAIDE MARTIN**, CO-OWNER OF NEW ORLEANS'S HISTORIC COMMANDER'S  
PALACE, INSPIRES A CULTURE OF CREATIVE CUISINE AND HEARTFELT HOSPITALITY.

BY JAN SCHMITZ MATHEW, DELTA/ILLINOIS

**G**rowing up in the heart of New Orleans and living only blocks from a spirited collection of cousins, aunts, and uncles, Ti Adelaide Martin's best memories link to family. And even as a youngster, Martin was well aware of her clan's reputation in the restaurant world and the matriarch on whose shoulders it largely rested: her mother, Ella Brennan, one of the country's first female restaurateurs and co-founder of New Orleans's famed Brennan's on Royal Street.

"Mom hosted many lavish parties at our house for food professionals from around the country," says Martin, Beta Sigma/SMU. "And as a little kid, I was always tagging along with her to the restaurant."

Martin recalls being put to work, too. She stamped the word "souvenir" on Commander's Palace menus and, wearing antebellum gowns, handed flowers to patrons on special holidays.

"One time, my cousin Dickie and I were playing in the backyard when the dishwashing crew got mad and walked out," she says. "Mom called us in, and we washed dishes for the rest of the day."

Decades later, Martin cherishes her mother, now 90, as her "best friend and business mentor." The two recently teamed up to co-author Brennan's biography, *Miss Ella of Commander's Palace* (Brennan and several siblings took over personal supervision of the restaurant in 1974); and also produced a documentary entitled *Ella Brennan: Commanding the Table*, directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Leslie Iwerks. Rave reviews have generated discussions about future movie rights.

"At first, Mom was completely reluctant to do the book," says Martin, who had the biography on her "bucket list" for years. "But I finally convinced her with the argument that the next generation of our family, and people in our company, would never know how all of this happened if we didn't put it into words."

The projects also brought mother and daughter full circle. "Mom never pushed me to join the family business, and she gave me enough confidence that I never felt I was in her shadow," says Martin, who returned to New Orleans in 1986 after two years as a real estate professional in Houston. "She encouraged me to learn to take care of myself, and she knew that all my experiences would serve me well.

"Secretly, though, I think she hoped I'd come back."



## CHERISHING SISTERHOOD

Martin's decision to attend SMU in Dallas was characteristically adventurous. "It cracks me up now, but at the time I simply picked a college and showed up," she says. "I didn't visit the campus, and my mom didn't take me to SMU and stick around to decorate my room. I just drove off with a friend."

Although two of her cousins had attended SMU (the family owned Brennan's in Dallas at the time), Martin carved her own path—one that led to Theta.

"I went into recruitment not having a clue, and I didn't feel any pressure to join a sorority," she recalls. "But when I went through the Theta house, I was surrounded by fun and funny women. Their spirit simply fit me."

Friendships forged within the Theta house proved boundless. Martin and eight others from her new member class—a group that has since dubbed itself "The Gal Pals"—still take annual trips together, navigating distance and life's milestones.

"We live all over creation, but we're an extremely close-knit group," Martin says. "Theta continues to be an amazingly fun and important part of my life."

After graduating from SMU with a business degree, Martin briefly considered a career in law. However, she ultimately decided to pursue business studies at Tulane University, where she earned an MBA in finance and marketing in 1984.

Martin next worked in Houston for two years. But when her mom underwent triple bypass surgery, she followed her heart back to New Orleans.

"I wanted to spend time with Mom and to enjoy working with her," she says. "She's more fun than most people my age, and she has an amazing intellectual curiosity."

"I don't know what most 'girls' talk about, but Mom and I find business to be the most fascinating stuff in the world. We have so much in common—we talk about our family, our city, and what's going on in the world."

"But when it comes to homemaking or decorating a room, we're clueless!"

## EMBRACING THE EXPERIENCE

What began in 1946 when Martin's uncle, Owen Edward Brennan, opened Owen Brennan's French & Creole Restaurant on Bourbon Street (later known as Brennan's) has mush-

roomed into a business that encompasses 14 family members, four of whom are third generation. Three branches of Brennans own a total of 13 award-winning restaurants, with cuisine ranging from traditional Creole to steakhouse. In addition to New Orleans, Brennan-branded restaurants now operate in Houston, Las Vegas, and Anaheim, California.

Within this mix, Martin considers Commander's Palace—which she has co-owned with her cousin Lally Brennan since 1997—to be the family's "flagship." Nestled in the center of New Orleans's tree-lined Garden District, this famous restaurant is renowned for Creole cuisine, a history of celebrated chefs, including Emeril Lagasse and Paul Prudhomme, and a charming ambiance that combines class and comfort. Commander's has also

garnered numerous James Beard Foundation awards, the "Oscars of the food world," in the categories of Best Chef, Outstanding Restaurant, Outstanding Service, Who's Who of Food & Beverage, and Lifetime Achievement (for Ella Brennan in 2009).

"Commander's isn't just about the food, it's about the entire experience," says Martin, "and I'm all about personality and fun. I call this a 'fine-dining joint,' where there's a 'wine guy' instead of a 'sommelier,' tables have balloons, and you can get a three-course meal for about \$40. We wear silly chef hats for special occasions, and we look for ways to personally connect with our guests."

Tradition runs deep here, too. When Ella Brennan took the helm of Commander's Palace in 1974, she stated, "I don't want a restaurant where a jazz band can't come marching through." Martin has kept the spirit in full swing with a weekend Jazz Brunch that features a changing menu of traditional and unique entrees seasoned with the sounds of live jazz musicians.

Martin is also gifted with a keen instinct for what works—and what doesn't—and is quick to correct missteps. "About fifteen years ago, we decided to move on from serving our garlic bread with entrees," she recalls. "Customers were furious, so we brought it right back."

Commander's Palace classics like turtle soup and bread pudding soufflé are menu mainstays, as are Martin's personal favorite entrée and cocktail—an oyster po-boy dressed with Creole tartar sauce and Tequila Mockingbird. But other choices, such as those on the Chef's Playground Tasting Menu, typically change every few days.

"We're not afraid to try new things in order to constantly evolve," Martin says. "It's our goal to be on the leading edge of fine dining and Creole cuisine in New Orleans."

Innovation, whether in the form of fun or food, infuses recent additions to the restaurant family tree. Also under Martin's co-ownership are Café Adelaide and the Swizzle Stick Bar and SoBou, both in New Orleans, as well as Brennan's of Houston in Texas.

Martin's namesake, her aunt Adelaide, was the inspiration for Café Adelaide, located in New Orleans's Loews Hotel. Recalled as "Auntie Mame and then some" by her nieces, Adelaide Brennan's theatrical personality and glamorous—even naughty—behavior were legendary in the Crescent City. The Café reflects her spirit with a menu that includes unique cocktails and "brunch with Hat-itude;" guests wearing hats receive complimentary "Hat-tinis."



The Café also boasts the first female chef in the Brennan restaurant line-up.

Since childhood, Martin has gone by the nickname "Ti" (pronounced Tee), which she also owes to her flamboyant aunt.

"Ti is short for petite, which is a Louisiana version of *junior*," she explains. "It can apply to a male or female that is named for an older member of the family. Our glamorous Aunt Adelaide did not like being called Big Adelaide, so I became Ti."

At SoBou, "a spirited restaurant south of Bourbon," Martin is introducing tastes of Spain, such as sheepshead crudo and yellowfin tuna with foie gras fondue. Other patrons pleasers include a pay-by-the-ounce wine system that allows guests to sample different varieties, and beer taps at each table.

"I feel that hospitality is the key to success in our business," Martin says. "It's also the hardest part of the equation, but that's where I want to make my mark."

Pre-meal meetings, which she holds twice daily at Commander's, give this elusive concept the edge. "I love these meetings. They're very motivational with lots of high energy and sharing of information. It bolsters our culture, which is a continual striving for excellence.

"There's a big garden and courtyard patio between Mom's house and Commander's, and we often meet outdoors. This is simply a very happy place."

## PRESERVING THEIR LEGACY

In addition to her mother's biography, Martin has co-authored several books that chronicle the family's journey: *Commander's Kitchen*, with Commander's Palace executive chef, the late Jamie Shannon; *Commander's Wild Side: Bold Flavors for Fresh Ingredients from the Great Outdoors*, with Commander's chef Tory McPhail; and "In the Land of Cocktails: Recipes and Adventures from the Cocktail Girls," with cousin Lally Brennan.

But it was immersing herself in the "grande dame's" story by collaborating on her mother's biography that gave Martin a renewed appreciation for the profound impact her mother made on New Orleans's cuisine: she elevated brunch and breakfast from a meal to an event, created the decadent dessert Bananas Foster, and fulfilled her dream to make New Orleans "the Paris of America." But the highlight of creating the book and documentary, says Martin, was seeing the city literally "show up" for her mother.

"The documentary premiered at the New Orleans Film Festival, which was held in the gorgeous Orpheum Theater," says Martin of the October 14, 2016, event. "People lined up around the block to get in. I sat in the back row with Mom so we could take in the audience's reaction. She was healthy, relaxed, and thoroughly enjoyed every minute."



Above: A renowned restaurant family, Lally Brennan, Ti Martin, Dottie Brennan, and Ella Brennan. Left: Commander's Palace has been a New Orleans landmark since 1893. The iconic exterior paint color is called "Commander's Blue."

*"Commander's isn't just about the food, it's about the entire experience, and I'm all about personality and fun. I call this a 'finedining joint,' where there's a 'wine guy' instead of a 'sommelier;' tables have balloons; and you can get a three-course meal for about \$40."*

"For Mom, New Orleans has always felt like a member of the family. She really felt the love of the city that night, and that made it for me."

Ella Brennan lives with her sister, Dottie, in the family home, which is next door to Commander's. Martin is in the neighborhood, too, and spending bonus time with her mother and aunt is often the best part of her routine.

"Most days, I read and exercise in the morning, and get to the restaurant by about 10 am," says Martin, who enjoys golf, racquetball, pickleball, and biking. "I'll attend Commander's pre-meal meetings, pop in at the other restaurants, and try to sneak in an afternoon visit with Mom."

"I go back to the restaurant in the evening and, at the end of the night, I get Old-Fashioneds for Mom and Aunt Dottie, a white burgundy for me, and head over to their house to visit for awhile."

Martin admits to having another restaurant "percolating" in her mind, but gives no hints other than "I don't want any more restaurants that I can't walk to." And stepping up recently as co-founder of The New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), an \$18 million state of the art center slated to open in early 2018, speaks to her passion for hospitality. According to NOCHI's website, its purpose is to



serve the interests of culinary and hospitality students and professionals, as well as food and beverage enthusiasts, and to unite world-class facilities, programming, and resources with New Orleans's standing as a world-class culinary and hospitality city.

"I worry about the state of service in our industry, and I don't feel we're heading in such a good direction," Martin says. "I'd like to see a return to tablecloths and other elements that can change the atmosphere and make for a fine dining experience."

"As a city, New Orleans is naturally good at hospitality. It's what the world needs more of right now, and I'd like us to teach that in a formal way."

And as Martin continues to model the art of congeniality, there's also a bright torch to carry. "Ten years from now, I hope to be right where I am today—having fun and mentoring the youngest generation of Brennans."

About the author: It's been more than 10 years since writer Jan Mathew visited New Orleans, but the city's friendliness, amazing food, and eclectic spirit have long lingered. Another visit is definitely on her horizon—particularly since Ti Martin promised a warm Commander's Palace welcome! ♦

#### AMONG THE DOZENS OF ENTREES FEATURED AT HER RESTAURANTS, TI MARTIN SAYS THIS RECIPE IS HER FAVORITE.

##### Oyster Po-Boy

###### Creole tartar sauce:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup chopped green onions (green part only)
- 2 tablespoons chopped pickled okra
- 2 tablespoons chopped capers
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce

###### Po-Boys:

- 30-inch loaf French bread, ends trimmed, cut in half lengthwise
- Corn-fried oysters
- 1 Creole tomato or other heirloom tomato, sliced thin
- 1½ cups lettuce

###### Corn-fried oysters:

- 2 quarts vegetable oil, for frying  
*(always use clean oil)*
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup masa flour
- 1 cup corn meal
- ½ cup seafood seasoning or to taste
- 40 raw oysters, shucked and in their own liquid

Prepare the Creole tartar sauce: Whisk all ingredients together in a bowl. (Can be made up to 3 days ahead, covered, and refrigerated.)

Prepare oysters:

Preheat oil to 325° to 350° in a 6-quart or larger pot.

In a large bowl, mix flour, masa, cornmeal, and seafood seasoning until well blended.

Dredge each oyster in mixture using the natural oyster liqueur as an adhesive to coat. Shake off excess coating. Repeat until all oysters are evenly coated and ready to fry. Fry oysters in small batches only. Be careful not to overcrowd in fryer and prevent drop in oil temperature. Cook oysters until edges curl and become crisp and brown. Pull from oil and drain on cloth towel. Season and serve immediately.

To assemble the Po-Boys: Split open the French bread. Spread Creole tartar sauce on the bread and top with fried oysters, lettuce, and tomato slices.

Ti Martin, Commander's Palace

*Thank you so much for sending me the lovely pansy pin. It brings back memories of my fondest days at the Theta house at the University of Montana.*

*Last summer, eight Theta sisters gathered for two days and rented a cabin on Whitefish Lake, Montana. It was a wonderful few days of hiking, kayaking, cooking, and sharing our Theta memories.*

-Andre P. Duchesneau, AN/Montana



50-year anniversary pin

*Thank you for the lovely pansy pin! What a thoughtful surprise marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my Kappa Alpha Theta initiation. I have only the fondest memories of my years in Theta and friendships that still endure the years of change. I have great admiration for those who continue Theta's mission.*

-Brenda Halstead O'Brien, ΓΜ/Maryland

## Significant Celebrations

*Nothing glows more brightly than gold; nothing shines more brilliantly than a diamond.*

*On Founders Day, Theta celebrated the 50- and 75-year initiation anniversaries of 2,596 members! In commemoration, the Fraternity gave a special pin to each woman celebrating a gold or diamond anniversary. Many recipients wrote back; we're pleased to share these special memories.*



75-year anniversary pin

*Thank you for the beautiful Kappa Alpha Theta pansy lapel pin. I cannot begin to tell you all that Theta has meant to me. In the fall of 1941, I entered Penn State, located in the Eastern part of the Allegheny Mountains. My mother's letters were frequent. In one, she wrote, "Do not overlook Rush. The girls in the sorority you choose will become lifetime friends."*

*On pledge night, in confusion, I called home. My father suggested I choose the one where I felt most comfortable. That was definitely Kappa Alpha Theta.*

*I shall always remember my Theta invitation being slipped under the door.*

*When I left Penn State, my boyfriend at Ohio State, Bob Whitehurst, contacted a Theta who made arrangements for me to join the Alpha Gamma Chapter.*

*I saved the best for last! My daughter, Cynthia Whitehurst Gill, is a Theta from the University of Texas.*

-Louise Murbach Whitehurst, ΑΓ/Ohio State

## THE POWER OF THE PROFESSOR

NOW IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, THETA'S OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD PROGRAM RECOGNIZES TEN OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHERE THETA CHAPTERS ARE PRESENT. PROFESSORS ARE CAREFULLY CHOSEN FOR THIS AWARD FROM AMONG A POOL OF DISTINGUISHED CANDIDATES WHO WERE NOMINATED BY KAPPA ALPHA THETA CHAPTERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA VIA AN OFFICIAL NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THETA'S 2015-16

# OUTSTANDING FACULTY

BY BECKY REED BARKER, PhD, BZ/OKLAHOMA STATE, DIRECTOR OF LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERISM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

We may or may not remember their names, but we remember their faces, what they said, what they didn't say, how they could make class enjoyable and learning invigorating. The special ones separated themselves from the others by going the extra mile, creating an engaging classroom experience, challenging us to grow in ways we didn't think were possible, and believing in us—when maybe we didn't. Not everyone has this type of experience with a faculty member in college, but when we do, it is special.

The professor has power, not only to assign and submit grades, but also to impact a student in a profound and personal manner: to stir a passion for a particular subject, research topic, or learning experience, to inspire a young person to select a major and ultimately impact a career path and her future. This is the power of influence. During my undergraduate years, I experienced two such professors, but they never knew the true impact they had on me.

I wish we had a formal way to say thank you to those professors back then, the faculty members everyone had heard of, recommended, or who impacted their students so powerfully. We would've recommended them for an honor had there been one. We would have collectively let

them know how they made a difference in our lives. I wish I could do that today; with hindsight and wisdom that comes through the years, I would like them to know they made a difference to me.

The power of the professor is strong ... in so many ways. I hope you'll spend a few moments reflecting on your college experience and about which faculty members had an impact in your life. If you are still able to, I hope you will extend them a thank you. Each year, Kappa Alpha Theta chapters have the opportunity to do this very thing: to recognize faculty members who have influenced students and made a difference on campus. Our Outstanding Faculty Award is a wonderful way to highlight those who go the extra mile, light a spark of interest, or challenge growth. Chapter members recommend a professor based on the four points of the Theta kite: intellectual curiosity, leadership potential, commitment to service, and personal excellence.

It is a treat to read the nominations, to learn how gifted teachers truly inspire and change our members. Join me in congratulating the faculty selected for this year's honor. Not only are they making a difference in the lives of our members, they are now a special part of these chapter's stories.



**DINA BADIE ▽**

**POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,  
CENTRE COLLEGE**

*Nominated by the Epsilon Eta Chapter*

"In class, Dr. Badie challenges our members to the highest level of scholarship and serves as an exceptional role model for academic excellence. Her dedication to social, intellectual, and moral growth is unquestionable, further demonstrating her qualities as an outstanding faculty member. She inspires all Thetas, even those who have not had the opportunity to take one of her classes, by serving as a champion for women's achievement and, ultimately, as an example of the leading women we want to become."

**DANIELLE CHAMPNEY ▲**

**MATHEMATICS EDUCATION, CALIFORNIA  
POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Nominated by the Zeta Theta Chapter*

Dr. Champney has been described by many chapter members as one of the most genuine teachers they have encountered. One said, "She cares about her students and their personal lives beyond the classroom. She is a really awesome professor and has always been very helpful, especially in office hours and has even offered to help with math for classes other than the ones she teaches."

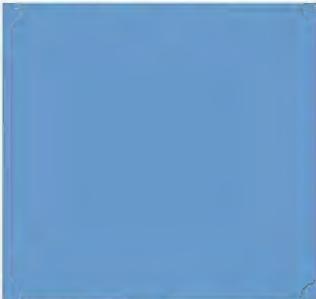
**CAMILLE HAILEY ▲**

**MANAGEMENT, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

*Nominated by the Delta Omega Chapter*

In their nomination, Delta Omega Chapter members wrote, "She sees the potential in each of her students and then pushes them to attain the highest level of learning and understanding. Students in her classes never fail to find real-life, personal applications of the content they learn through her courses."

Of her Theta students, Hailey wrote, "The intellectual curiosity, ambitions and work ethic I see in these young women is unparalleled. I am greatly honored to have received this award from such a talented group of young women."

**JEAN BLOCKER △**

**SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF TULSA**

*Nominated by the Gamma Tau Chapter*

"Dr. Blocker is not a teacher who simply teaches out of a textbook; instead, she instills critical-thinking skills. In the words of one of our members who has taken several of her classes, 'Dr. Blocker pushed us to identify what we believe and why. Within the course of a semester, she reshaped and remolded my view on people and society.'"

**COLLETE L. HEALD ▲**

**CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING  
& EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES,  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

*Nominated by the Zeta Mu Chapter*

"Colette has taught me how much fun it can be to investigate a scientific problem. She sets aside an hour every single week to sit down with me and talk through the process. Colette is truly an amazing mentor, professor, and role model. As a young female faculty member, she is a wonderful role model for many female engineers at MIT, an amazing professor, and an irreplaceable advisor."

**ISAAC L. HUNTER ▷**  
**PSYCHOLOGY,**  
**COLLEGE OF IDAHO**

*Nominated by the Eta Eta Chapter*

"Professor Isaac is constantly inspiring his students to open up and be real. He doesn't want us to create surface-level relationships, but rather deep, meaningful relationships that will last a lifetime. He shows what it means to serve on a campus and constantly shows leadership not only as a young person in academia, but also as a leader who encourages us to dream big."



SINCE  
2012

**567**

OUTSTANDING  
FACULTY  
NOMINATED

**50**

OUTSTANDING  
FACULTY  
HONORED

**41**

ACADEMIC  
FIELDS  
REPRESENTED  
BY HONOREES

**SCIENCES**

FIELD WITH  
MOST  
HONOREES

**MITCH MCVEY ▷**

**MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, TUFTS UNIVERSITY**

*Nominated by the Eta Psi Chapter*

Professor McVey believes that the most effective way to teach biology is to engage students in the research process and to make them feel included in the scientific community. "If you are stressed about classes or searching for jobs, you can feel completely comfortable talking through issues with him. He will not only give great advice, but he also has the ability to make everyone feel more at ease, regardless of the problem a person is dealing with."



**TIEN ROEHLING**

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY  
OF THE PACIFIC**

*Nominated by the Phi Chapter*

The nomination read: Professor Roehling's ability to remain a commanding leader while also creating an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration is a skillset that is extremely helpful in the professional world. She understands that students learn by being active participants in their education. Through in-class discussion, she helps students navigate the field of engineering in ways that help us understand what it truly means to be an ethical and moral professional engineer.

**COLLEEN SPURLING ▷**

**MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

*Nominated by the Gamma Zeta Chapter*

"Our chapter sees Dr. Spurling as the epitome of a leading woman. A leading woman encourages others to move forward, while also ensuring that those who fall behind are not forgotten. Theta aspires to see women reach their full potential, no matter where they come from. Dr. Spurling supports the victories of successful students, but gives ample attention and opportunities to those who struggle. She brings out the best in herself in order to bring out the best in those around her." ◇

**MIKE MOREHOUSE ▷**  
**HEALTH, UNIVERSITY  
OF FLORIDA**

*Nominated by the Delta Theta Chapter*

"Within the classroom, Dr. Moorhouse encourages students to challenge conventional thinking when examining social problems and health disparities. 'He is inclusive, open-minded, and encourages genuineness and whole-hearted passion in all of the efforts one puts forward during one's lifetime.'"



IT'S DIFFICULT TO STAY GROUNDED IN TODAY'S BUSY, NON-STOP WORLD, BUT IN MANY WAYS, THETA CAN HELP US REMAIN GROUNDED. WE ALL HAVE OUR REASONS FOR JOINING KAPPA ALPHA THETA, AND SPECIAL MEMENTOES HELP US REMEMBER THEM. SIMILAR TO OTHER LOVE STORIES THAT STARTED WITH "HELLO,"

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Headquarters staff members share their favorite Theta items in their offices.

## YOU HAD US AT “THETA.”

BY ISABELLA MARKOVSKI, A/DEPAUW



*"My favorite item is the 1870 over my computer docking station. In the center of the O, I have my boyfriend's sergeant pin from his uniform. I love that it makes the O look like a Θ"*

Amanda Gaglio,  
HΘ/Central Florida,  
FHC Property Manager



*"My Bettie button provides inspiration by always reminding me of the set of values Theta was founded on nearly 150 years ago. These values are what drive my work at Theta HQ each and every day!"*

Margaret Burke, A/DePauw,  
Assistant Director of Chapter Services



*"[I have a Theta picture frame] of me on my first Bid Day. It was the first new member class I helped recruit, and some of my very best friends came home to Theta on this day!"*

Mary Kate Kronzer, Γ/Butler,  
Foundation Programs Coordinator



*"I have a pillow that was a gift from the alumnae committee, given to me at 2016 Grand Convention. It's so personal."*

Laura Kassenbrock Stelsel,  
Γ/Butler,  
Assistant Director of Alumnae Engagement



*"My first Convention was as my college chapter's delegate in 1982... Now, 35 years later, I have a post card from that very Convention."*

Betsy Sierk Corridan, BO/Iowa,  
Chief Executive Officer



# HOW TO —



## — HELP LEAD A NONPROFIT TO SUCCESS

**ELIZABETH BAILEY, BE/OREGON STATE,** IS CO-FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL OF 2B COMMUNICATIONS, A CONSULTING FIRM WORKING TO HELP ORGANIZATIONS DO MORE GOOD IN THE WORLD. SHE HAS DEVELOPED AND LED BOARD LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH, STRATEGIC GROWTH PLANNING, BRANDING, AND COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS FOR HUNDREDS OF NONPROFITS AND ASSOCIATIONS. BAILEY RECENTLY CO-AUTHORED *STEP UP! HOW TO BE AN EXCELLENT NONPROFIT BOARD MEMBER*. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [2BCOMMUNICATIONS.COM](http://2bcommunications.com).

BY LISA GEBKEN THIBAUT, EI/WESTMINSTER

As Thetas, we're well-versed in the importance of community service and our responsibility to be both doers and leaders. As we gain experience and expertise in our volunteer roles, serving on a nonprofit board can be an opportunity to put our values into action at a higher level. It can also be an opportunity to gain skills; meet engaged, knowledgeable people; and make a significant difference in whether a nonprofit is just another worthy cause or a powerful force for good.

While the five tips below specifically address successful experience at the board level, they can also enhance volunteering at a less visible level, as well as prove useful in career leadership positions.

**Make sure the fit is right.** Don't just automatically say "Yes" (for a change!). Before you commit, do some research about the organization and get a clear picture of what the expectations are for board members. If possible, meet and talk with other board members and make sure it is a cause and a group you can fully support.

**Dive into the strategic planning process.** Contrary to what you might have heard, planning is not an empty exercise. It's actually the best chance you have to help the organization take stock of where it is, address challenges that might be holding it back, and identify the

opportunities that can take it to new heights. And if your organization doesn't have a strategic plan, help put one in place!

**Master the art of the elevator speech.** Being an ambassador is a core board-member responsibility. And owning your own authentic elevator speech is a powerful tool. So instead of reciting a memorized laundry list of services, go deep and personal. Tell people something amazing you have witnessed or learned to illustrate the magnitude of the problem your nonprofit is addressing and real-life examples of the innovative ways it's changing the game.

**Model meaningful giving.** Being a great board member is far more than writing a check. Yet there's no denying that donations are the lifeblood of a nonprofit. Making your organization a top charitable priority and giving to your capacity is the best way you can motivate others to do the same.

**Stand as one.** No matter how lively the debates and heated the discussions are in a board meeting, once a decision is made, it's everybody's job to embrace it and do all they can to move the organization forward on a positive and productive path. ♦



Elizabeth Bailey, BE/Oregon State

**Do you know (or know another Theta who knows) how to do something better?**  
If so, please contact Lisa Thibault, website specialist, [lthibault@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:lthibault@kappaalphatheta.org). We'd love to hear from you!

"TRAVELING - IT LEAVES YOU SPEECHLESS,  
THEN TURNS YOU INTO A STORYTELLER."

- Ibn Battuta



## FROM SPEECHLESS TO STORYTELLER

BY KAILEE MCGUIRE WEIKER, ZΣ/OHIO NORTHERN

It was early last June, and I was sitting at my work computer when my phone rang. I noticed on the display that my husband, Nate, was calling from his cellphone. My first thought was, *That's strange. He's at work, why is he calling me from his cellphone?* Then all of the terrible possibilities flashed through my mind. Maybe he got fired; maybe he quit; or, worst of all, something happened to someone in his family.

I picked up the phone expecting the worst. That's when Nate told me he had just gotten out of a meeting with his boss who had offered him an opportunity. A two-year assignment and promotion at a newer factory that is gearing up to run some of the same machinery that he is knowledgeable about. It would also involve a move ... to China. My mind went blank. The only thing I could come up with to say was, "So, will they be teaching us to speak Chinese?"

Fast forward to January of last year, when we had gotten to a point where we were fairly sure this was something we wanted to do. So we took a trip to visit the plant and the city where we would be living. My first international experience was a 15-hour flight to China, and our visit was wonderful! We met so many kind and caring people who were very excited to get to know us. They took us out to eat at local restaurants where I tried some very unusual foods, like camel. I couldn't believe that I felt incredibly at home, and before we left for the US, I told Nate that I wanted to accept the offer. I wanted to pack up our lives, our 15-month-old daughter, and our two dogs and move 7,000 miles away to a place where we didn't speak the language or know anyone.

After tons of paperwork, phone calls about financial aspects, and two meetings with a psychologist who talked about culture shock for us and our daughter, we were nearly ready to go. Packing was actually a dream, thanks to the company paying for a service that comes and does everything for you. We packed up what was getting shipped by air or sea to meet us in China and then the rest was loaded onto a truck for a storage facil-

ity. We sold our cars, put our house on the market, and went through the process of getting the dogs certified for the move. It was a crazy final month, but nothing was as wild as me quitting my full-time job. I never thought I would quit a wonderful job, but on my last day I felt very excited as well as very scared.

We landed in China and got moved into our gorgeous villa here in Taicang within a week. I spend my days taking walks, playing with our daughter and teaching her new things, and blogging our adventures at [www.fromspeechlesstostoryteller.com](http://fromspeechlesstostoryteller.com). I have also been able to keep my volunteer position as finance advisor for the Zeta Sigma Chapter at Ohio Northern. I communicate through emails and am happy to be contributing to the chapter that gave me so much during my time in college. At night, we either have new friends over for dinner or go out and try new foods. We get to travel to new places and enjoy doing new things, like visiting a local orchard to pick fresh grapes and going to an ancient garden to see the architecture built centuries ago. Our new friends and their children enjoy teaching us Chinese, and we like to cook American food for them. We had a Fourth of July party here, including fireworks! One of our friends bought a cake and we all sang Happy Birthday to America. We are also planning a trip to the newly opened Shanghai Disneyland Park soon.

Many people here have said they think Americans are afraid to visit China because they have an idea that it's dangerous or scary here. I can firmly say that nothing is farther from the truth. The people here are warm and friendly. The cities are beautiful and vibrant. China has very quickly become like home for us, and I know that we are very blessed to be spending two years here. Theta inspired me to take adventures when they are offered, to go boldly in the direction of my dreams and let nothing hold me back. I hope this inspires you to take an opportunity whenever you can. ♦

Top: Kailee and Nate Weiker in Zhouzhuang, an ancient Chinese town. Below: Rylee Weiker and one of her family's new friends.



## SNAPSHOTS



## COLLEGE & ALUMNAE CHAPTERS

- A Bid Day at Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi was successful and fun!
- B Members of the Nashville Alumnae Chapter and the Eta Phi Chapter at Belmont joined forces to stuff invitations for the Bal d'Hiver Charity Ball.
- C Officers and advisors from the Alpha Eta Chapter at Vanderbilt enjoyed a study break decorating cupcakes, coloring, and painting nails.
- D Nine women initiated at the Phi Chapter at Pacific joined the Coachella Valley Alumnae Chapter for a luncheon. Pictured are Sally

Butterbaugh Alvino, Joan Doell Arnold, Suzanne Close Lawrence, Nancy Schrader Garrett, Ellen Rosenbaum, Catherine Lesan Markl, Kriste Barnickol Hauck, Kathy Snook Meyer, and Suzanne Teixeira.

E Amanda Khan and Jaclyn Sigmen, both Omicron/USC, cheered at the 2016 Rose Bowl.

F Members of the Delta Kappa Chapter at LSU had a fun-filled bid day.

G New members of the Delta Omega Chapter at Texas A & M enjoyed a retreat full of games and making new memories.

H Recruitment at Beta Kappa/Drake was fun and a big success.

I A mother and her daughters, India Sachs Radding, ZΩ/Cal Poly; Brenna Radding, AΞ/Oregon; and Brooke Radding, ZΩ/Loyola Marymount, show their Theta pride.

J Susan Bakken, Ψ/Wisconsin; Marit Bakken, ΠΠ/Iowa State, Madeline McDonald, ΓΔ/Georgia; and Christine McDonald, Ψ/Wisconsin, enjoyed a little "family reunion" at 2016 Grand Convention.



### CHAPTER SNAPSHOT ΔΩ/TEXAS A&M

The Delta Omega Chapter at Texas A&M had a full fall calendar.

Left: Megan Jicha, Elizabeth Brooks, Emily Gerhart, and Rachael Kase, Delta Omega/Texas A & M, participated in Day of Service by making blankets to give to children receiving medical exams at Scotty's House, a local child advocacy center.

Center: The chapter hosted its seventh annual ThetaFest to raise money for Scotty's House as well as for Theta Foundation.

Right: The big/little reveal was a blast.





F



G



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K



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M

**K** US Senator **Claire McCaskill**, AM/Missouri, attended a chapter meeting as part of **Alpha Mu's** "Leading Women" speaker series.

**L** Members of the **Westchester, NY, Alumnae Chapter** supported My Sister's Place, a domestic violence shelter and sexual assault resource organization, at its annual Fall Luncheon. Pictured are Margaret Leverich Blum, BΦ/Michigan State; Patti Messersmith Turken, EΦ/Stetson; Laura Ince, ΔΩ/Texas A&M; Lisa Davis Olney, ΔE/Arizona State; Samantha Dolce, ZZ/Colgate; and Joan Cresap, EP/Bucknell.

**M** For Theta's 2016 Day of Service, the **Calgary Alumnae Chapter** organized a Soup Sisters event. They made soup and donated it to the Mary Dover House, which provides safe and low cost shelter to women and children in times of need and homelessness.

#### No Photo

The **Mid-Cities Alumnae Chapter** hosted its fourth Ruby Slipper Soiree and raised nearly \$23,000 for CASA of Tarrant County.

Members of the **Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter** get together every summer for fun and games! Participants gathered in Avalon, New Jersey, and included **Sarah Bowman**

**Wildemore, AO/Oklahoma; Jean Johnston Converse, BΦ/Penn State; Ann Jones Seybert, BP/Duke; Susan Willis Bowers, BΦ/Penn State; Mary Fromhart Knake, Π/Albion; Jean Bacsik Anstine, BΦ/Penn State; Marianne Drukker McClennen, BΦ/Penn State; and Nancy Kuethe Chace, AT/Cincinnati.**

Two Nashville Thetas, **Mary Bess Corbin**, EE/Baylor, and **Kayla Shepherd**, HΦ/Belmont, found themselves in Paris at the same time! They met up to see Orchestre National de France at La Maison de la Radio and enjoyed beautiful live music.

## CHAPTER SNAPSHOT DALLAS ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Theta alumnae in Dallas know how to connect with one another and their community. Left: Members learned how to make (and enjoyed eating) homemade pizza.



Right: A holiday sisterhood event at The Container Store included gift-wrapping and bow-making lessons.

And the chapter's executive board volunteered at Jonathan's Place, which provides a safe, loving home and specialized services to children who have been victims of abuse, abandonment or neglect. Their Girls Treatment Program offers long-term residential care to girls ages 10 to 18 who require a high level of therapeutic care.





**A** Members of the **Charleston Lowcountry Alumnae Circle** gathered for lunch in December. Pictured are Lynn Russell, BO/Iowa; Bev Waggoner, ΓΠ/Iowa State; Nancy Davidonis, BI/Colorado; Shelley Fetterolf, AΩ/Pittsburgh; Joan Reed, B/Indiana; Rebecca Wick, ΓΔ/Ohio Wesleyan; Lorie Land, AX/Purdue; Kara Berly, AΘ/Texas.

**B** The **Miami Alumnae Chapter** celebrated Founders Day and Linda Forbes Clark, ΔΘ/Florida, and Sarah Graf Woods, AH/Vanderbilt, for 50 years in Theta.

**C** Members of the **Palos Verdes Peninsula Alumnae Chapter** celebrated the holidays at their December Christmas Party.

**D** Delta Sigma alumnae Annie Craig Willis, Elizabeth Eavey Whitern, Elizabeth Snyder, Nancy Beal Rodewald, Bonnie Batrich Brown, Linda Carlin Strauss, and Mira Gasko gathered to celebrate **Elizabeth Snyder, ΔΣ/Ball State**, who received an Award of Achievement from the Ball State Miller School of Business.

**E** Three **Epsilon Iotas** are also members of the **Westminster College** board of trustees:

Elizabeth Malm-Bautsi, Lana Cross Zerrer, and Anne McIntosh Schneider.

**F** The **Southern Denton County Alumnae Chapter** spent Day of Service with Young Lives, a ministry program, serving dinner to single mothers and their children.

**G** Suzanne Hamilton Irving, O/USC, and Jeanne Tyler Larson, AX/Purdue, live in the same retirement community and meet for lunch monthly!

## THETAS OF NOTE



Jamie Lewis, A/DePauw, launched her own JLEW line of totes, duffels, and clutches made in New York City specifically for women on the go!



Samira Armin Hodges, ΓΕ/Western, wrote the trilogy *Milestones*, a three-part story about self-discovery, love, and friendship.



Katherine Carroll, ΓΦ/Texas Tech, was selected as the 2016 Hyundai Sun Bowl Queen.



Samantha Krantz, ZΑ/Charleston, launched a city-wide initiative to remember Holocaust victims through her partnership with the Daffodil Project. Krantz, chapter members, and community members, planted 1,800 daffodils in Charleston's Marion Square.



Barbara Hackman Franklin, BΦ/Penn State, earned the Lifetime Achievement Award in US-China Relations from the US-China Policy Foundation for her contributions to strengthening economic and political bonds between the two countries.



## REUNIONS

**H** Jessica Willocks Duncan, BN/Florida State; Senator Claire McCaskill, AM/Missouri; and Leigh Hildebrand, EI/Westminster, celebrated together at the Holiday Congressional Ball at the White House.

**I** Laurie Wilson, Joi Springer, and Gretchen Braunstein, all EE/Baylor, ran the CASA 5K together in Waco.

**J** Peg Spitznas Harmon, BK/Drake; Martha McElveen Ezzard, ΓΔ/Georgia; Shera Hess Eddy, BK/Drake; and Mary Osgood, Ψ/Wisconsin, met up in Georgia.

**K** Alumnae from the Gamma Delta Chapter at Georgia celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> birthdays together!

**L** Kathy Mitchell Weisz, Martie Stilwell Petersen, Karen Rabusch Pekas, Pam Johnson Whorley, Katie Johnson Howe, Fran Hagen Kibble, and Jane Burns Shanard, all AP/South Dakota, met to celebrate their 56-year reunion.

**M** Molly Banks Talley and TJ Flynn Condon, both EA/Dickinson, used the ThetaConnect app to meet up during a Dickinson College reunion.

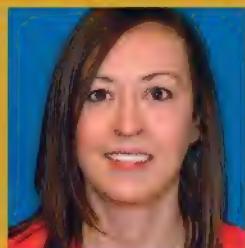
**N** Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor members from the 1980s enjoyed their recent reunion.

**O** Thirty-one women from the 1986 new member class of Kappa/Kansas gathered at the Kappa facility and enjoyed a pizza party with current collegians!

**P** Graduates of Beta Pi/Michigan State Class of 1958 reunited in California. Pictured are Marcia Kierland Henry, Jane Sterling Friesema, Sherla Jennings Alberola, Donna Reuling Gainer, Louise Hornbeck Renne, Carly Steffee Merrill, and Kathy Arnold Frakes.



**Margaret Guo, ZM/MIT,** was named the 2016 NCAA Woman of the Year.



**Morgan O'Neal Chaput,** ΔI/Puget Sound, was hired as the CASA program attorney for the Pierce County Juvenile Court.



**Maia Jaycox, ΙΤΙ/Iowa State,** was crowned 2017 American Honey Queen at the North American Beekeeping Conference in Texas.



**Mandy Lee Womack, ΓΣ/San Diego State,** received the Robert H. Shaffer Award from the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors for her longterm commitment to fostering positive change on college campuses and building partnerships in higher

education and the interfraternal community.

**Alicia Cotsoradis, A/DePauw,** was awarded \$15,000 by GoOverseas.com to study abroad in New Zealand.

**Meagan Perry Kaiser, AM/Missouri,** was appointed to the United Soybean Board and is the first woman from Missouri to be appointed to the board. ♦

A notice of the death of a Theta sister may be sent to Gretchen Brown, membership coordinator. (Her contact information may be found on page 2.) A published death notice, whether print or electronic, is appreciated.

**A/DEPAUW**

Joan Robinson Acker; 1942, June 2016  
Julie Christine Ferguson; 1986, April 2016

**B/INDIANA**

Suzanne Phillips Clauer; 1948, Aug. 2016  
Jane Malcolm Fletchall; 1933, June 2016  
Mary Kratz Gasser; 1948, April 2016  
Karyn Hindman Soderholm; 1984, Aug 2016

**G/BUTLER**

Gene Stark McComb; 1945, Sept. 2016  
Katharine Armstrong Plaut; 1943, Aug. 2016

**A/ILLINOIS**

Eleanor Sifferd Moore; 1949, March 2016

**I/CORNELL**

Patricia Snyder Stegall-Harris; 1957,  
June 2016

**K/KANSAS**

Gladys Blue Bayles; 1945, Sept. 2016  
Mary Ruth Lanning Benson; 1963, Oct. 2016  
Barbara Anderson Jones; 1955,  
Aug. 2015

Kathleen O'Brien Sewell; 1962, Sept. 2016

**A/VERMONT**

Marianne Stanford Thornburg; 1951,  
Feb. 2016

**G/OHIO WESLEYAN**

Ruth Ice Cornish; 1948, July 2016  
Yvonne Margaret Eder; 1953, June 2016  
Eugenia Davis Mills; 1961, May 2016  
Murland Jane Minor Oliver; 1943, Oct. 2016

**M/ALLEGHENY**

Linda Rieffle Hagstrom; 1959, Feb. 2016  
Jean Linnert Jenner; 1944, Dec. 2015  
Patricia Karnosh Lammert; 1943, April 2016

**P/ALBION**

Georgann Rock Novak; 1962, July 2016

**P/NEBRASKA**

Mary Ellen Martison Engdahl; 1951,  
Aug. 2016  
Susan Swift Miller; 1961, Jan. 2016  
Christina Perrin Moorcroft; 1963, Sept. 2016  
Susan Muelhaupt Overbey; 1954, Aug. 2016

**T/NORTHWESTERN**

Jean Oslage Shrode; 1944, Sept. 2016

**Y/MINNESOTA**

Lillian Christie Johnson; 1936, Sept. 2015

**F/PACIFIC**

Patricia Bray Helmann; 1993, Aug. 2016  
Judy Hanshue Lozano; 1959, May 2016

**X/SYRACUSE**

Barbara Coit Turner; 1940, June 2016

**Ψ/WISCONSIN**

Barbara Frazer Dunne; 1950, Dec. 2015

**Ω/UC BERKELEY**

Jacqueline Bertz Leete; 1937, April 2016

**AΓ/OHIO STATE**

Ruth Keller Hughes; 1943, Aug. 2016  
Nancy Williams Noble; 1959, June 2016  
Barbara Geyer Wentz; 1949, June 2016

**AΗ/VANDERBILT**

Berrylin Ferguson McCarty; 1975, July 2016

**AΘ/TEXAS**

Doris Mitchell Berry; 1955, Aug. 2016  
Norma Wilson French; 1950, Oct. 2016  
Kay Wrage Gunn; 1951, Aug. 2016  
Alexine Moss Strum Ingraham; 1949,  
Jan. 2015

Elizabeth Fite Thorne; 1944, Oct. 2016

**AK/ADELPHI**

C. Patricia O'Rourke Meyers; 1944,  
May 2016

**AΔ/WASHINGTON**

Sharron Welsch Reams; 1954, Nov. 2015  
Prudence Talbot Rolfe; 1944, Aug. 2016  
Barbara Vanwaters Strom; 1942, Oct. 2015

**AM/MISSOURI**

Judith Jenkins Thomasson; 1953, Oct. 2016

**AΕ/OREGON**

Marjorie Titus Lubanko; 1938, June 2016  
Mary Jean Reeves Wilson; 1946, Oct. 2016

**AΟ/OKLAHOMA**

Susan Cargill Clark; 1976, July 2016

**AP/SOUTH DAKOTA**

Peggy Cadwell Jones; 1944, Feb. 2016

**AΣ/WASHINGTON STATE**

Betty Kiser Gravette; 1944, July 2016  
Barbara Paine Nance; 1941, Oct. 2016  
Julia Smithwick Smith; 2009, Oct. 2016  
Dorothy Bradford Street; 1939, May 2016

**AT/CINCINNATI**

Marjorie Perin Hunt; 1937, June 2016

**AΧ/PURDUE**

Mary Dow Ferry Bishop; 1945, March 2016  
Patricia McCorkle Calmer; 1939, Nov. 2016  
Lucy Goetz Eklund; 1944, Aug. 2016  
Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Frazee; 1939,  
July 2016

Carole Wood Gorenflo; 1973, Oct. 2016  
Kathy King Hirsty; 1973, Jan. 2016

**AΨ/LAWRENCE**

Ruth Helen Rosholz Banghart; 1939,  
Dec. 2015  
Janet Meyer Becker; 1942, Sept. 2016  
Sally Kelley Harper; 1951, Jan. 2016  
Rosamond Rosholz Lyons; 1943, April 2009  
Peggy Landis Saecker; 1954, Jan. 2016

**AΩ/PITTSBURGH**

Vivian Francis Gaddess; 1932, Dec. 2015

**ΒΓ/COLORADO STATE**

Gay Hope Stonebraker Fenimore; 1987,  
Sept. 2016

**ΒΕ/OREGON STATE**

Malvena Evenson Allen; 1946, Sept. 2015  
Marilyn Moser Date; 1949, Oct. 2016  
Merlene Johnson LeMaster; 1951, June 2015

**BΖ/OKLAHOMA STATE**

Vonda Bivert Evans; 1954, Aug. 2016  
Suzanne Barr Wolf Nix; 1951, Aug. 2016  
Joanne Goff Weatherford; 1952, May 2016  
Nancy Grinstead Woodyard; 1958,  
July 2016

**ΒΗ/PENNSYLVANIA**

Jane Vaughn Sullivan; 1940, March 2016  
Kathleen Shannon Toole; 1962, April 2014

**ΒΘ/IDAHO**

Jane Husted Goodman; 1956, Feb. 2016

**BΚ/DRAKE**

Jordan E. Burger; 2006, Oct. 2016  
Grace Scholler Fenwick; 1939, Oct. 2016  
Beverly Jobes Modlin; 1956, Oct. 2016

**ΒΑ/WILLIAM & MARY**

Sheila Stewart Ehrlich; 1942, May 2016

**ΒΜ/NEVADA**

Dolores McConnell Antoniazzi; 1941,  
July 2016  
Lois Noviack Boudwin; 1941, Sept. 2016  
Anne Cantlon Britton; 1962, Oct. 2016  
Toni A. de Salvo; 1965, Jan. 2015  
Blanche Picchi Martinelli; 1951, Sept. 2016

**ΒΝ/FLORIDA STATE**

Judy Goodman Hill; 1961, Sept. 2016  
Janice Hield Hulbert; 1940, Dec. 2015

**ΒΕ/UCLA**

Barbara Parmelee Munzig; 1941, Jan. 2016

**ΒΟ/IOWA**

Rose-Mary Randall Beach; 1942, Oct. 2016  
Anita Burrus Schulz; 1979, Oct. 2016

**ΒΠ/MICHIGAN STATE**

Betty Donahue Dibble; 1949, July 2016  
Helen Beardslee Maynard; 1936, Aug. 2016  
Susan J. Shanks; 1949, Sept. 2016

**ΒΡ/DUKE**

Jean Wallauer Duncan; 1933, Jan. 2016

**ΒΣ/SMU**

Beverly Kinard Field; 1947, Oct. 2016  
Patricia Melick Owen; 1948, July 2016  
Anne Lund Stewart; 1965, Oct. 2016

**ΒΤ/DENISON**

Margaret Blowers Enger; 1949, Oct. 2016  
Margaret McKenzie Milbourn; 1966,  
May 2016

Carolyn Clark Pendleton; 1957, Aug. 2016

**ΒΥ/BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Ida Francis Ker; 1941, Aug. 2016

**ΒΦ/PENN STATE**

Elizabeth Evans Banmiller; 1936, April 2016  
Barbara Fleming Coskery; 1937, Aug. 2016  
Eleanor Lineman Lewis; 1965, Feb. 2015

**ΒΧ/ALBERTA**

Sally Anne Bishop; 1958, Aug. 2016

**ΒΩ/COLORADO COLLEGE**

Marilyn Nielsen Brown; 1947, Aug. 2016  
Cynthia Hagner Peck Taylor; 1954, June  
2016

Carol Beery VanMetre; 1957, June 2016

**ΓΔ/GEORGIA**

Dorothea Herty Ashworth; 1942, Aug. 2016

**ΓΖ/CONNECTICUT**

Barbara Haugh Aiken; 1950, Sept. 2016  
Virginia Garvey; 1944, Aug. 2016

**ΓΘ/CARNEGIE MELLON**

Lenore Dewall Loucks; 1944, Aug. 2016

**ΓΙ/KENTUCKY**

Shirley Park Deane; 1955, Oct. 2016

**ΓΚ/GEORGE WASHINGTON**

Claire Smith Hildebrand; 1959, June 2015

**ΓΜ/MARYLAND**

Jill Caryn Bond; 1977, Feb. 2016  
Elizabeth Mouzon Butterfield; 1955,  
Aug. 2016

Jane LeMay Lodge; 1961, April 2016

**ΓΡ/UC SANTA BARBARA**

Geraldine Wheldon Jones; 1950, Jan. 2016

**ΓΣ/SAN DIEGO STATE**

Sondra Reeves Scott; 1956, May 2016

**ΓΤ/TULSA**

Sylvia Williams Martin; 1953, Jan. 2016

**ΓΥ/MIAMI**

Diana Baldwin Wilson; 1955, June 2016

**ΓΦ/TEXAS TECH**

Annyce Gibbs Chertorisky; 1957, June 2015  
Sarah Pinson Harp; 1957, Aug. 2016  
Nelda McQuien Laney; 1962, Aug. 2016

**ΓΥ/TCU**

Barbara Ziegler Green; 1958, Jan. 2016

**ΔΕ/ARIZONA STATE**

Kay Stouffer Baker; 1962, Oct. 2016 ♦

Dates represent year of initiation and month and year of death.

# International Badge Day

Monday, March 6, 2017



International Badge Day

Wear your badge and  
share your Theta story ...  
no matter  
how ordinary or extraordinary it is.

International Badge Day is a program of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC).



Visit the Theta Marketplace at [KAPPAALPHATHETA.ORG](http://KAPPAALPHATHETA.ORG) to shop all our licensed vendors

# Silver Rush

By I.Mitchell, KAΘ Epsilon Mu Chapter



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Kite necklace available in sterling silver and 14k gold

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- Note Cards
- Invitations
- Postcards
- Notepads
- Certificates
- Alumnae Chapter Newsletter Templates
- Recruitment Materials
  - Receipt of Reference Cards
  - Post-Recruitment Alumnae Cards
  - Bid Day Cards



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small:  $2\frac{3}{16}$ " W (approximate 6.5" circumference)  
medium:  $2\frac{3}{8}$ " W (approximate 7" circumference)

K - karat gold, KW - karat white gold, GF - gold-filled, SS - sterling silver, CZ - cubic zirconia  
Prices subject to change. Items may not be shown at actual size.

\*Colored stones are synthetic.



A. Pearl Drop Necklace, #682054SS SS...\$49

B. Pearl Earrings, #68054SS SS...\$65

C. Pearl Ring, #612013SS SS...\$75

D. Lavalier (with 18" GF snake chain), #L2469  
10K...\$75

E. Pierced Diamond Kite Pendant, #895DIA  
10K...\$1050 14K...\$1500

F. Snake Chain, 18", #SNAKE  
SS...\$20 GF...\$30

Lux Jeweled Bangles, #BG808

G. Black...\$50 H. Rose Gold...\$50

I. Yellow Gold...\$50 J. Silver...\$50

K. Aquamarine Cushion Ring, #0452  
SS...\$128 10K...\$325 14K...\$435

L. Loyalty Crest Ring, #79030  
SS...\$95 10K...\$205 14K...\$290

M. Swirl Ring, #1000

SS with CZs...\$148

10K with diamonds... \$397

14K with diamonds...\$482

N. Graduation Stole, #STOLE...\$30

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The [George Washington University] Panhellenic Association unanimously selected Kappa Alpha Theta because of their dedication to values like philanthropy, mental health, diversity and inclusion, leadership, and development. (GWHATCHET.COM, 11.3.2016)

I WAS SURROUNDED BY FUN AND FUNNY WOMEN. THEIR SPIRIT SIMPLY FIT ME.

**TI MARTIN, BΣ/SMU (SEE PAGE 18)**

**Theta values are such a source of encouragement on my worst days on the job and a source of inspiration on the best.**

**AMY FERREE, BT/COLORADO STATE (SEE PAGE 14)**

Theta inspired me to take adventures when they are offered, to go boldly in the direction of my dreams and let nothing hold me back.

**KAILEE MCGUIRE WEIKER, ZΣ/OHIO NORTHERN (SEE PAGE 27)**

SHE BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN HERSELF IN ORDER TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN THOSE AROUND HER.

**GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER, (SEE PAGE 24)**

To be a leading woman is to be someone who is working actively to change the world.

**WINDSOR HANGER WESTERN ZΣ/- (SEE PAGE 17)**

Women business & labor leaders can and should be considered the norm.

**(WWW.NWHP.ORG, 10.21.2016)**